

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Specification**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1, as follows:

The transition metals are selected from Mn, Ni, Fe, Cr, Co, Cu or Mo, the alkaline metals are selected from Na or K, the alkaline earth metals are selected from Ca or Mg, and the semi-metals are selected from B, Al, Ga, Si or Sn. The compound thereof may be any compound including the transition metals, the alkaline metals, the alkaline earth metals or the semi-metals. ~~[The e]~~Exemplary thereof are oxides, nitrides, sulfides, hydroxides or chlorides. Preferred are boron compounds, nickel hydroxide, aluminum chloride, aluminumisopropoxide, tin acetate, tin chloride or an alcohol solution of metal such as calcium oxalate monohydrate or tetraethylene orthosilicate. Most preferred are at least one boron compound such as  $B_2O_3$ ,  $H_3BO_3$ , ~~[BF]~~  $BF_3$ .

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 6 and 12 as follows:

6. (Twice Amended) A negative active material slurry for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising a mixture of a negative active material and a compound in an organic solvent, the compound ~~[comprising elements]~~ being selected from the group consisting of nitride compounds, sulfide compounds, chloride compounds and fluoride compounds, wherein the compound further comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of transition metals, alkaline metals, alkaline earth metals and semi-metals, wherein the amount of the compound is 0.05 to 30 wt %.

12. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a negative electrode for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

mixing a negative active material with a compound to form a mixture, the compound ~~[comprising elements]~~ being selected from the group consisting of nitride compounds, sulfide compounds, chloride compounds and fluoride compounds, wherein the compound further comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of transition metals, alkaline metals, alkaline earth metals and semi-metals, wherein the amount of the compound is 0.05 to 30 wt %;